(b) The only remaining district headquarters of Kurukshetra is planned to be linked through STD by March, 92.

[*Translation*] 69

Opening of Post Offices in Villages of Maharashtra

5742. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening of new post office in the rural area;

(b) the number of villages in Maharashtra where post office facility is not available;

(c) the number of villages out of them in which post offices are likely to be opened during the current financial year;

(d) whether the management of post offices has been assigned to teachers in several villages in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, the number of such post offices in Maharashtra as on June 30, 1991; and

(f) the reasons for not making at least part-time recruitments in such post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a). The norms for opening of new-post offices in rural areas are given in the attached statement.

(b). There are 28307 villages in Maharashtra where there are no Post Offices but they are served by existing nearby post offices.

(c). It is proposed to open 150 Post Offices in the rural areas during the current financial year, subject to justification.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As on 30.6.91 there were 334 such post offices in Maharashtra

(f) The policy of the Deptt. is to appoint as E.D. Agents only those who have an alternative source of Revenue. In these cases teachers were employed. If need arises there is no objection to recruit others also who may have alternative source of Revenue.

STATEMENT

Norms For Opening of Post Offices: Effective from 1.4.1991.

Branch Post Offices

i) Population:-

3000 population in a group of villages.

ii) Distance:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kmts.

iii) Anticipated income:

The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3 % of the cost.

i) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and inaccessible Rural Areas;

Population:

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

ii) Distance:-

The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate.

iii) Anticipated income:

The minimum anticipated income will be 15 % of the cost.

[*English*]

Infiltration In Andaman And Nicobar Islands

5743. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of foreign infiltrators are frequently entering into our territorial waters of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the number of incidents of infiltration into out territorial waters detected during last three years and number of persons apprehended in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) & (b). Despite surveillance by the concerned agencies over our territorial waters around Andaman & Nicobar Islands, some infiltration does take place.

The information regarding number of incidents and foreign nationals apprehended in this regard during the last three years is as under:-

Year	*No. of incidents detected*	*Number of foreign nationals apprehended*
1	*2*	*3*
1988	07	053
1989	32	318
1990	47	560

Modernisation and Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Ernakulam District of Kerala

5744. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to expand, modernise, provide STD and group dialling facilities to various telephone exchanges in Ernakulam district of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details there of ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes , Sir.

(b) Out of the 64 exchanges in Ernakulam district 17 have already been modernised by electronic exchanges. The remaining 47 are proposed to be replaced and expanded by electronic exchanges as and when these become due.

Group dialling facility is available for all the telephone exchanges in Ernakulam district. STD facility is already available for 30 exchanges of Ernakulam district. All the other exchanges are planned to be covered by the end of the 8th plan.

72 Telecommunication

Model Telecom Centre at Bangalore

5745. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: